



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**Region 2 Headquarters, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804-3099
Phone 406-542-5500 • Fax 406-542-5529**

DECISION NOTICE

March 21, 2003

ANGLERS ROOST FISHING ACCESS SITE LEASE

PROPOSAL

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to enter into a 10 year lease for a public fishing access at Anglers Roost Campground. Anglers Roost is located in the Bitterroot Valley about 2 miles south of Hamilton. The site has been used as a public access for many years and this lease will allow for the continued use of the site. FWP will pay \$500 a year and will also construct a boat ramp and signs at the site. Anglers Roost will provide parking and fishing access.

AGENCY PROCESS

FWP prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which was available for public comment from January 30 through March 3, 2003. The EA was posted on FWP's web page for that time period, and notices were published twice each in the Independent Record, Missoulian, and Ravalli Republic newspapers. The draft EA was sent to the following:

Governor's Office, Attn: Todd O'Hair, PO Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
*Dept. of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
*Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, POB 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
*Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
Website, Commission Secretary, Division Secretaries, Regional Office Managers
*State Historic Preservation Office, PO Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
*MT State Library, PO BOX 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800
Jim Jensen, MT Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624-1184
Montana Wildlife Federation, Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Ravalli County Commissioners, 215 South 4th St., Hamilton, MT 59840
Ravalli County Office of Planning, 215 South 4th St., Hamilton, MT 59840
Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association, Box 238, Hamilton, MT 59840
Bitterroot Trout Unlimited, Box 262, Hamilton, MT 59840
Representative Bob Raney, 212 South 6th, Livingston, MT 59047
Representative Bob Lake, 241 Daly, Hamilton, MT 59840
Representative Ron Stoker, 332 N. Gold Creek Loop, Hamilton, MT 59840
Senator Rick Laible, 529 Moose Hollow Rd., Victor, MT 59875

*Mailed electronically

PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE

Four comments were received concerning this proposal. Two people contacted FWP by telephone with comments supportive of the proposal. However, one of these individuals did not feel that a boat ramp should be constructed because it was unnecessary and could become undercut, causing maintenance problems. The Anglers Roost property owner wanted a boat ramp constructed to stabilize the site and improve the appearance of the landing area. FWP felt this was a reasonable request. Long-term maintenance at this site should be less than at some other sites, due to the low gradient of the streambank and the generally gentle flow along the property.

Two people commented by letter, and both were supportive of the project.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

A Cultural Resource Inventory Report was submitted to the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), indicating that there were “no apparent cultural resources and, . . . that the project will have a low likelihood of impacting any cultural resources.” SHPO responded that it concurred and that “no properties on or eligible for [the] National Register of Historic Places appear likely to exist within project impact area.” Should cultural properties be inadvertently discovered during the project, we would contact SHPO for a site investigation.

DECISION

Based on the analysis provided by the EA, I have determined that the review process satisfactorily complied with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). After review of the EA and careful consideration of the above comments, the proposed action will not create any significant impacts to the natural or human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

It is my decision to implement the proposal for the Anglers Roost Fishing Access Site Lease. By notice of this decision, the Draft EA is hereby made the Final EA without modifications or additions. Questions regarding this decision notice may be directed to me at 406-542-5500.

The Final EA and decision notice may be obtained from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula MT 59804-3099, or viewed on the FWP web page at <http://fwp.state.mt.us/publicnotices/default.asp>.

[signed]

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

CC/ML/sr